## Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing image data of a color image for marking, the color image containing overmarked pixels where at least one first color is to be overmarked by a second color, the method comprising:

generating information that designates the overmarked pixels;

performing raster image processing to create a raster image of the color image, the raster image processing including overmarking processing that allows both the at least one first color and the second color to be <u>separately</u> included in the overmarked pixels in the same raster image; and

modifying image data of the overmarked pixels in the raster image.

- 2. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein modifying the image data of the overmarked pixels comprises modifying image data corresponding to the at least one first color.
- 3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, further comprising outputting the raster image, including the modified image data, to a marking driver.
- 4. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein modifying image data of the overmarked pixels comprises modifying a value of image data corresponding to the at least one first color.
- 5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 4, wherein the modified value of the image data corresponding to the at least one first color results in a reduced amount of marking material corresponding to the at least one first color being applied to a marking substrate.

- 6. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein generating information that designates the overmarked pixels comprises generating tags that correspond to the overmarked pixels.
- 7. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to a black image and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are black image pixels.
- 8. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to one of black text and a black stroke, and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are one of black text pixels and black stroke pixels.
- 9. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein generating information that designates the overmarked pixels comprises performing pattern recognition that recognizes specified patterns; and designating pixels that form the recognized patterns as the overmarked pixels.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A system that processes image data of a color image for marking, the color image containing overmarked pixels where at least one first color is to be overmarked by a second color, the system comprising:

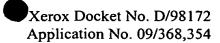
an overmarked pixel designator that generates information that designates the overmarked pixels;

a raster image processor that creates a raster image of the color image, the raster image processor provided with an overmarking function that allows both the at least one first color and the second color to be <u>separately</u> included in the overmarked pixels of the same raster image; and

an image data modification unit that modifies image data of the overmarked pixels in the raster image.

-3-

- 11. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the modified image data is image data corresponding to the at least one first color.
- 12. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 10, further comprising a marking driver that performs marking according to the raster image, including the modified image data.
- 13. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the image data modification unit modifies a value of image data corresponding to the at least one first color.
- 14. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 13, further comprising a marking driver that performs marking according to the raster image that includes the modified image data, wherein the marking driver marks a reduced amount of marking material corresponding to the at least one first color on a marking substrate based on the modified value of the image data corresponding to the at least one first color.
- 15. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the overmarked pixel designator comprises a tag generator that generates tags that correspond to the overmarked pixels.
- 16. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to a black image and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are black image pixels.
- 17. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 15, wherein the overmarked pixels correspond to one of black text and a black stroke, and the tags indicate that the overmarked pixels are one of black text pixels and black stroke pixels.
- 18. (Original) The system as set forth in claim 10, wherein the overmarked pixel designator comprises a pattern recognition device that recognizes specified patterns and designates pixels that form the recognized patterns as the overmarked pixels.



- 19. Original) A printer incorporating the system as set forth in claim 10.
- 20. (Original) A digital copier incorporating the system as set forth in claim 10.
- 21. (Original) A storage medium on which is stored a program that implements the method set forth in claim 1.
- 22. (Original) A storage medium on which is stored data that has been processed according to the method set forth in claim 1.